

# District Court Judge

## Sigurd E. Murphy, Third Judicial District

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** April 5, 1946  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Los Angeles, California  
**NAME OF SPOUSE:** Mary  
**CHILDREN:** Anne Marie, Sigurd III  
**MAILING ADDRESS:** 825 West 4th Avenue, Room 342  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 30 years  
Anchorage 1972 to the present

**EDUCATION:**

Ojai High School, 1960-64; University of Southern California, 1965-69, B.S. Public Administration; University of Southern California Law School, 1969-72, J.D.

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Brigadier General (retired). Awards: The Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service, Army Achievement, Army Commendations, Pathfinder Graduate, Alaska Commendation, Alaska Disaster Relief.

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**

District Court Judge. former member, Joint Committee on Military Bases in Alaska.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**

American Bar Association, Alaska Bar Association, American Board of Trial Advocates, Admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States of America and Military Court of Appeals.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:**

Anchorage Rotary, Past Rotary President; Church Lay Leader.

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

Family, hunting, rodeo, reading, diving (Master Diver).

**OTHER:**

Domestic Violence Committee, Civil Rules Committee, numerous justice-related committees in an attempt to improve the justice system.

**STATEMENT:**

I appreciate this opportunity to address you on the subject of my retention. My judicial philosophy is straight forward. As a judge I hold a public trust to administer justice fairly and impartially. I believe in God and country and begin each court day with the pledge of allegiance to remind all present of our obligation to ensure justice for all.

In all criminal proceedings, while mindful of the rights of the accused, I also consider the rights of victims and when imposing criminal sentences I weight numerous factors, including the need to confine a defendant to prevent further harm to the public and to deter the defendant and others from future criminal conduct. Because of my concern about such issues as the high cost of litigation and the increase in violence in our society, I am a member of various private and public boards and committees to include the Domestic Violence Committee.

I believe in the power of an informed public and therefore promote awareness of the judicial system by giving speeches, teaching at schools, and hosting court tours. Constant public scrutiny motivates judges, prosecutors, jurors and witnesses to adhere strictly to their oaths of duty. I believe judges must be intelligent, hardworking civil servants, which is why you will often find me working on weekends and holidays. My judicial colleagues exhibit exemplary integrity, diligence and compassion. I am honored to be a member of one of the best state judicial system in our country.

*provided and paid for by the candidate*

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Sigurd E. Murphy, District Court, Anchorage

**I. Judicial Council Evaluation.** The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Murphy to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote **Yes** to retain him as a district court judge.

**II. Summary of Evaluation Information.** A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Murphy on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Murphy 4.0 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest in the category of diligence (4.3). He scored 3.9 or better in all sixteen categories.

|                | Attorney Survey | Peace Officer Survey | Juror Survey | Court Employee Survey | CourtWatch Survey |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Legal Ability  | 4.0             | ---                  | ---          | ---                   | ---               |
| Impartiality   | 4.1             | 4.3                  | 4.9          | 4.4                   | ---               |
| Integrity      | 4.1             | 4.3                  | ---          | 4.4                   | ---               |
| Temperament    | 4.1             | 4.3                  | 4.9          | 4.3                   | ---               |
| Diligence      | 4.3             | 4.4                  | ---          | 4.5                   | ---               |
| Special Skills | 4.1             | 4.4                  | ---          | ---                   | ---               |
| Overall        | 4.0             | 4.3                  | 4.8          | 4.4                   | 4.2               |

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

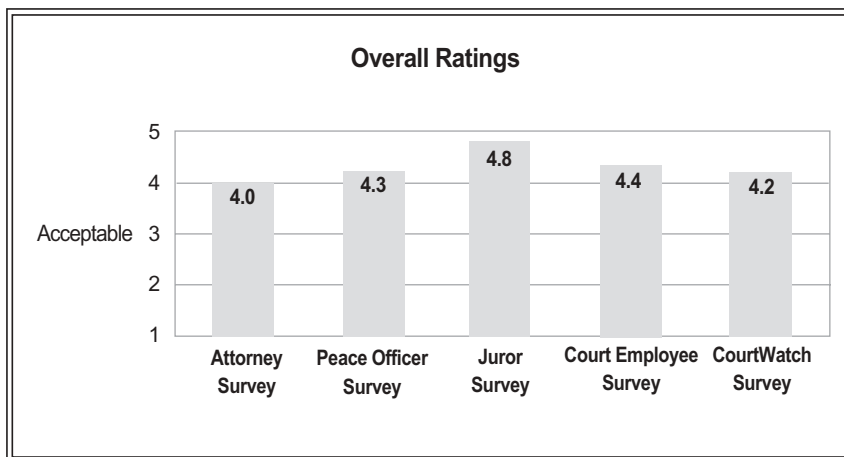
### Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent  
 4.0 = Good  
 3.0 = Acceptable  
 2.0 = Deficient  
 1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Murphy on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Murphy 4.3 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest in the category of controls courtroom (4.5). He scored 4.2 or better in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Murphy in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.8 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 4.4 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Murphy a 4.2 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



**Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Murphy**

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526)  
 for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

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